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## The new self defense law must be properly interpreted!

The Minister of Justice this week expressed concern for the potential wrong interpretation of the recently approved law on self defense for citizens. In so many words he indicated that...the new law on self defense does not allow any one whose property has been trespassed by an intruder to simply dish out corrective blows such as happened in Holland.

Aruba's penal code does not encourage anyone to carry fire arms at home nor to inflict physical damage at will on anyone.

The Law on Self Defense allows the owner of property to



defend himself and to not be considered guilty in the event he had to use force. Hence, the original victim who has the legal right to be in his home or on his premises will not be interrogated as a criminal in the event that he defended himself against someone who trespassed his property with wrong intentions.

The Minister made it clear that in the event someone trespasses a private property, that person will be considered a victim and will be interrogated and the police will deal with that person as the perpetrator and not you who defended yourself.

According to the Minister of Justice, this is a positive change in the penal code and an improvement in the work of the police, and at the same

time it means better protection for the community at large.

The government intends to do a complete information campaign for the introduction of this new Penal Code. The general public will be duly informed of all the aspects and ramifications of this new law so as to avoid any possible mis-interpretations.

Aruba now has a modernized Penal Code with very practical applications for a better protection of our citizens. A few of the topics in the new Penal Code have to do with the youth, placing people at the disposal of the state, the possibility for placing drug addicts under custody, the process of delay in reporting sexual abuse cases, the different new categories of fines, etc.

## US lawmaker: More Secret Service resignations due



**Hotel Caribe in Cartagena where the Secret Service scandal erupted**

WASHINGTON (AFP) - More agents will be forced out of the Secret Service, a US lawmaker said yesterday, as the White House warned foes not to "politicize" the prostitution scandal blighting the agency.

"It is our understanding the resignations could come today or tomorrow," Republican Peter King, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, told AFP, a day after three of the elite presidential protection agency's 11 employees involved were forced to leave.

King did not say how many more agents might lose their jobs over the misconduct, in which the agents as well as 10 military personnel allegedly

cavorted with prostitutes at a hotel in Cartagena, Colombia where President Barack Obama was attending a regional summit.

But congressman Elijah Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, said there was "absolutely no doubt" that the rest of the agents involved will resign or be dismissed. "Why? Because of the culture" of the agency, Cummings told CNN.

"They have this pride. They don't want any bad apples, and so they probably will leave."

With the Secret Service under the microscope -- and lawmakers preparing to probe the agency in a hearing next

week -- Republican Senator Jeff Sessions called on Obama to "assert discipline" in the wake of the sleazy episode.

"I believe that the president of the United States is the chief executive officer for the entire governmental bureaucracy," said Sessions, mentioning another scandal that was sparked when details emerged this month over excesses at a Las Vegas conference held by the General Services Administration.

"The president needs to assert discipline, management directions throughout the executive branch, and presidents are to be held responsible."

Obama's spokesman Jay Carney declined to pass judgment on the events in Colombia, but he dismissed the complaint by Sessions.

"This sounds very much like a lawmaker attempting to politicize something that is not at all political," Carney said.

Obama's spokesman also repeatedly declined to pass judgment on Secret Service management and practices, other than repeating that the president would be "angry" if the allegations turned out to be true.

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## Free Zone Aruba and APA visited by CIESP and ATIA



On Wednesday April 18th, 2012, Mr. Jorge Müller, member of the Board of Directors of FIESP/CIESP and General Director of the Southern Sao Paulo Regional Branch of CIESP visited Free Zone Aruba for a lengthy interchange on ideas and strategies for the further development of business relations between Sao Paulo and Aruba, in reference to regional distribution of Brazilian goods as well as to Europe. The director of Free Zone Aruba, Mr. Greg Peterson, invited Mr. Alfonso Boekhoudt, director of the Aruba Port Authority to join these discussions. Mr. Müller was accompanied by Mr. Ronald van Trigt, president of the board of Aruba Trade and Industry Association (ATIA).

CIESP is the Center of Industries of the State of Sao

Paulo and is a partner of FIESP. CIESP shares the same headquarters with the President of FIESP, Mr. Paulo Skaf. CIESP is comprised of 42 regional branches.

Mr Muller's visit was also of a preparatory character. He informed that a plan is in the making to revisit Aruba in the third quarter of 2012, accompanied by an estimated 40 captains of industry from the Sao Paulo region.

The meeting between Free Zone Aruba, APA, CIESP and ATIA lasted 3 hours.

Picture above shows, from left to right, Ronald van Trigt, President of ATIA, Greg Peterson, director of Free Zone Aruba NV, Jorge Müller of CIESP, Esther Broeksema of ATIA and Alfonso Boekhoudt, director of Aruba Ports Authority.

## Aruba Green Corridor, destined to take Aruba to the next level!



The Green Corridor project is more than just the government's intent on going "green" but is a gigantic roadworks project. The entire San Nicolaas to Oranjestad corridor will be decorated with green plantation which will definitely beautify and raise the level of our landscape to the next level.

This mammoth project will fall under the PPP (Private Publix Partnership) program where the private sector will be responsible for the financing, design and construction of the entire project. The Green Corridor will be the very first big project on Aruba to be realized under the PPP system. Smaller projects have already been executed using the PPP system.

The government reports that the process for this Green Corridor is quite advanced. The first preparation phase is almost complete with the selection of two candidates who will participate in the conversations with members of the Government's Commission in charge of the real-

ization of the plans.

It is expected that during the final quarter of 2012 they should know which company will sign contracts to execute the program.

The Green Corridor project consists of all public projects, provisions and services which fall within the scope of the design, financing and maintenance of these projects. This will include expansion of the capacity of the principal highway from the Airport to the round-about in Pos Chiquito. This will move from the existing single lane to a double lane, a distance of about 8 kilometers. The existing exit roads off the high-

way to Jaraweg to San Nicolaas and the existing roads to the north and south of these roads will be reconstructed.

The route to the north of the project will enter: Jara, Savaneta, Sero Alejandro, Rooi Koochi, Mabon, Weg Sero Blanco and Weg Fonteine to San Nicolaas. Most of the roads to the south will remain at the coast. This will run from Isla di Oro and go through North Cura Cabay, Savaneta, and Zeewijk to San Nicolaas. This will be an expansion of about 5 km in length of new road, and about 23 km of road renovations.

*Continued on page 4*



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## Princess Carolina to marry in June



Princess Carolina of Bourbon-Parma (37), the youngest daughter of Queen Beatrix's sister Princess Irene and her late husband Spanish Prince Carlos Hugo, is to marry Albert Brenninkmeijer in the

church of San Miniato al Monte in the Italian city of Florence on 16 June.

The couple, who have been engaged for more than a year, announced their marriage in January. Mr Brenninkmeijer (37) is a member of the board of C&A France, a subsidiary of the Brenninkmeyer family business. He was born in Paris and went to university in Scotland and England.

Princess Carolina currently works for a department of the United Nations Geneva office which coordinates humanitarian aid.

## Youth Parliament participated in EBONI Reefcare Beach Clean Up



Youth Parliament headed by its Youth Minister for Environmental Affairs Aditya Gupta participated in the annual Eboni Reefcare Beach Clean Up at Arashi.

Recently, the crew got together with many others to clean up the Arashi area.

It was a unique experience for the team of youth parliamentarians as they found bottles, plastics, glass, wood with nails, shoes, sandals and all kinds of weird items at these sites. The items were duly collected in to sturdy garbage bags.

Aditya wondered if we can recycle all this material in to something useful we could probably help the environment even better.

Picture shows Aditya Gupta with many others who supported the group of Youth Parliament. Youth Parliament would like to thank Eboni Reefcare and Clean Master who were seen providing the logistical support to all participants as well.

even better.

Picture shows Aditya Gupta with many others who supported the group of Youth Parliament. Youth Parliament would like to thank Eboni Reefcare and Clean Master who were seen providing the logistical support to all participants as well.



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## Aruba Green Corridor, destined to take Aruba to the next level!

Continued from page 2



The entire project is estimated to be completed in about 2 and a half years. The company to construct the

project will have a maintenance commitment to maintain these roads for a period of 18 long years! According

to the government, the estimated cost for this massive project is in the 100 million Florins.

## 8th Annual ISA Art Auction - Sunday, April 22



The International School of Aruba is hosting an Art Auction of student art work at the Hyatt Hotel this Sunday, April 22, from 2:00-4:00 PM. The auction features work from every grade level, Montessori through High School. The student work includes student paintings and drawings, a hand-painted chess set, a chandelier, a chair, and glass bottles. Admission is free.

The first 45-minutes of the event will feature performances by students in the ISA music program. The Elementary Chorus will open the auction with song so be

sure to be there right at 2:00 not to miss their joyful voices. While guests preview the art, violin, brass and woodwind music students will play, creating an ambiance of casual elegance.

Also while viewing the art, guests will be able to nibble on delicious delicacies created by local restaurants including Papiamento, Gasparito's, Marina Pirata, House of Japan, Le Petit Café and Lecca Lecca and quench their thirst with cool drinks

and coffee.

All proceeds from the auction will go towards art supplies to be purchased locally for students. Recently, ISA donated a large amount of paper, colored pencils and markers to Social Projects of Arts for children who need support in the Cas pa Hubentud.

ISA is committed to reaching out to the Aruban community in many ways. In the coming school year ISA will offer programs that will be



open to the entire Aruban community after school hours and on weekends in languages, beach tennis, beach volleyball, soccer and the arts. ISA encourages all people to visit the school and see what a jewel Aruba has as an educational facility for all. We look forward to seeing everyone at the 8th Annual ISA Art Auction!

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## Haiti president leaves US hospital after treatment

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Haitian President Michel Martelly has left a US hospital where he was treated for a pulmonary embolism, officials said yesterday.

The president, who did not discuss his ailment, said in a recorded message that he felt better, and thanked the government and the Haitian people for their support.

He insisted that the government remained in control in Haiti.

"During my hospital stay, I kept in contact with the authorities. Everything is under control and I will return soon," Martelly said, without providing further details of his return date.

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## Honoring at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club



Recently, Mr. Albert E. and Mrs. Ellin S. Horn were honored as Goodwill Ambassador of Aruba. The honor was bestowed on them for visiting the island for 24 consecutive years. The Horns are members of La Cabana Club and have been enjoying the Island every year.

This symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest who visit Aruba for between 10 and 20 years consecutively.

Ms. Darline S. de Cuba, representing Aruba Tourism Authority, and Mrs. Sharline Charles conducted a small ceremony for the Horn's at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, where they handed the couple a certificate, thanking them for their loyalty to our islands.

The horns say the main reason they return to Aruba is because they consider Aruba to be One Happy Isyland. The love the nice weather, white sandy beaches and the local diverse food.



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## Loyal Visitors honored at the Renaissance Ocean Suites

Recently, the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple, and also a very nice family as Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba. They are loyal visitors of Aruba, and the Renaissance Ocean Suites, their home away from home.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20 or more consecutive years.

The honorees are Mr. John and Mrs. Elizabeth Pearson from Hooksett NH USA, and the Azzara family consisting of Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Rose Azzara and their daughter Mrs. Lisa Alexander-Azzara from Conn Manchester USA. They all have one thing in common, they love the Island very much, like our friendly people, the nice climate, beautiful



beaches, diverse restaurants, and the Aruban culture. They say that they feel very safe here.

The certificates was presented to them by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority. Also pres-

ent was Mrs. Linda Garcia of the Renaissance Ocean Suites, who presented the honorees with gifts and champagne.

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## International News

### Norway killer says he aimed for far higher death toll

OSLO (AFP) - The gunman behind Norway's massacres told a court yesterday he had meant to kill the entire government and said he used meditation, video shooting games and steroids to prepare for the slaughter.

Anders Behring Breivik, who murdered 77 people last July, also said he had planned a far greater bloodbath.

The 33-year-old far-right extremist also testified he had given his murder weapons names from Norse mythology, calling his rifle "Gungnir" after Odin's magical spear and his Glock pistol "Mjoelner" after Thor's hammer.

And he revealed he had once spent a year playing video games, including role-playing online game "World of Warcraft," and a first-person shooting game, to prepare for what he believed would be a suicide mission.

Breivik also practised a form of Japanese meditation daily since 2006 to help block out his emotions during the attacks and said he was still meditating to help him get through the trial.

He has used testosterone since April last year and anabolic steroids on the day of the attacks, he said.

In the bomb attack in Oslo, he said, "the aim of the attack on the government buildings... was to kill the entire Norwegian government, including the PM... and everyone in the building".

He then travelled to Utoeya island where, dressed as a police officer, he methodically shot for more than an hour at hundreds of people at a Labour Party youth summer camp, taking 69 lives, mostly teenagers.

There were 569 people on the island that day, and Breivik

testified that he would have liked to kill them all -- including by beheading former premier Gro Harlem Brundtland and posting a video of her execution on the Internet.

Breivik said that originally "the plan was three car bombs followed by a shooting". He said he had considered placing a second bomb near the headquarters of the Labour Party, which he accuses of triggering a "Muslim invasion" with its generous immigration policies.

For the third location, he

considered parliament, Norway's Aftenposten newspaper and City Hall, before deciding on the royal palace, although he insisted he had planned to warn the royal family so they would not be hurt.

He said he then planned to ride a motorcycle to a far-left squatter community, then to the Dagsavisen daily and finally to the headquarters of the Socialist Left Party, "executing as many people as possible" in each place.

### With eye on China, India tests new long-range missile

BHUBANESWAR (AFP) - India yesterday successfully test fired a new missile capable of delivering a one-tonne nuclear warhead anywhere in rival China, marking a major advance in its military capabilities.

The test leaves India knocking at the door of a select club of nations with inter-continental ballistic missiles (ICBMs), which have a minimum range of 5,500 kilometres.

Currently only the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- possess a declared ICBM capability.

"This launch of the Agni V, has given a message to the entire world that India has the capability to design, develop, build and manufacture missiles of this class, and we are today a missile power," said V.K. Saraswat, head of India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) which made the missile.

Agni, which means "fire" in Sanskrit, is the name given to

a series of rockets India developed as part of its ambitious integrated guided missile development project launched in 1983.

Of the select group of nations with declared ICBMs, the United States urged restraint while China downplayed the launch.

"China and India are both big emerging countries. We are not rivals but cooperation partners," foreign ministry spokesman Liu Weimin told reporters.

The state-run Global Times newspaper warned, however, that India "should not overestimate its strength" in an editorial published on Thursday.

"India should be clear that China's nuclear power is stronger and more reliable. For the foreseeable future, India would stand no chance in an overall arms race with China," it added.

The two Asian giants, each with a population of more than one billion, have prickly relations and a legacy of mistrust that stems from a brief but bloody border war in 1962.

### Argentina seizes gas firm owned by Repsol

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - Facing intense criticism over the nationalization of its biggest oil firm, Argentina on Thursday ordered the seizure of YPF Gas, another group controlled by Spain's Repsol, a move expected to further inflame tensions.

In a case that has sparked fears of a new wave of expropriations, a statement published in the official gazette said the Argentine government was declaring YPF Gas a public utility and taking 51 percent of the shares.

YPF Gas is not technically part of the YPF oil group ordered nationalized this week, leading to global condemnation, but a separate company.

However, an 85 percent stake in the gas firm is owned by Repsol Butano SA, a division of the Spanish energy giant.

Officials said the move was an extension of the takeover of YPF, the big unit of Repsol which Argentina decided to seize this week.

The government statement indicates that YPF Gas "plays an essential role in Argentina's hydrocarbon policy."

YPF Gas is the main provider of fuel tanks that are supplied to low-income households in the South American nation that are not on the gas network, officials said.

The move expands the nationalization effort ordered by Argentina, which claimed the Spanish firm was failing to invest in the country and forcing it to import more of its energy

supplies.

Spain, the United States, the IMF, the European Union and others lined up to take turns slamming the move by President Cristina Kirchner.

During a visit to Colombia on Thursday, Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy again slammed the move as "an injustice," but declined to comment on how his government might retaliate.

Spain and the European Union have warned that the nationalization would damage relations and others have voiced concerns of a chilling effect on capital investment in the region.

On Thursday, World Bank head Robert Zoellick added his criticism to Argentina's move.

Repsol bought Yacimientos Petroliferos Fiscales in 1999 for \$15 billion in what was the biggest operation of the privatization program of former Argentine president Carlos Menem.

Credit rating firm Standard & Poor's downgraded Spanish oil firm Repsol's rating by one notch Thursday.

S&P lowered the rating to BBB- from BBB, indicating strong creditworthiness but an increased vulnerability to economic shocks, with a negative outlook, it said in a statement.

US ratings agency Moody's downgraded YPF on Tuesday.

Kirchner has argued that the expropriation was justified because YPF crude production had dropped while oil and gas imports doubled in 2011. Imports are forecast to triple by the end of the year.



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## International News

### Iraq attacks kill at least 38

BAGHDAD (AFP) - A wave of apparently coordinated bombing and shooting attacks in seven different provinces across Iraq killed at least 38 people and wounded more than 170 on Thursday, security officials said.

It was the deadliest day in Iraq since March 20, when shootings and bombings claimed by an Al-Qaeda front group, the Islamic State of Iraq, killed 50 people and wounded 255 nationwide.

The attacks, which come amid heightened political tension, drew an accusation from the Sunni-backed Iraqiya bloc that security measures were insufficient, and that Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, as head of the armed forces, was responsible for the deficiency.

A car bomb targeting

Health Minister Majid Hamed Amin's convoy in Haifa Street in the heart of the capital killed two civilians and wounded nine people, including four of the minister's guards.

Four more car bombs and two roadside bomb in Baghdad killed nine people and wounded 62.

In northern Iraq, bombings in Kirkuk province killed 10 people and wounded 29, police said.

A car bomb against the convoy of police Brigadier General Taha Salaheddin south of Kirkuk city killed two police and wounded 15 other people, a high-ranking police officer said on condition of anonymity.

Another car bomb in the city centre killed two police and wounded three.

The spokeswoman for the Iraqiya bloc, Maysoon al-Damaluji, pointed a finger at Maliki for the weakness of security measures to prevent the bloodshed.

"The continuation of bloody explosions, although it has been already announced that tight security measures have been taken, reflects the weak security plans and the necessity to reconsider them," the MP said in an emailed statement.

"The commander of the armed forces (Maliki) is responsible for providing security and complete safety for citizens," she said.

Political tensions have risen sharply after key Iraqi factions accused Maliki of orchestrating a slide away from the electoral process and towards dictatorship with the arrest last week of election commission chief Faraj al-Haidari, who has since been freed on bail.

### US lawmakers seek data on anti-Sikh crime

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Nearly 100 US lawmakers appealed Thursday for a compiling of data on hate crimes against Sikh Americans, seeking better ways to combat racially motivated attacks against the community.

Sikh Americans have voiced alarm over harassment and violence since the September 11, 2001 attacks as some assailants mistakenly considered Sikh men, whose religion obliges them to wear turbans, to be Islamic extremists.

In a letter to Attorney General Eric Holder, 92 members of the House of Representatives urged the Justice Department to collect data on anti-Sikh crime as part of reporting on hate attacks, which already looks at violence against other groups including Muslims.

The letter credited the Jus-

### Venezuela dismisses drug ties allegations from ex-judge

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela on Thursday dismissed allegations from a former supreme court judge who turned up in Miami this week saying that President Hugo Chavez's government maintained ties with drugtraffickers and had manipulated the justice system.

Foreign Minister Nicolas Maduro said Eladio Aponte, 63, who was removed last month as a supreme court judge by the National Assembly, was "absolutely discredited."

"It is easy to understand how a fugitive from justice, tried for links to drug-trafficking, but who also has been removed from his position, has sold his soul to the DEA," Maduro said referring to the US Drug Enforcement Agency, Washington's anti-narcotics authority.

Aponte had been accused of providing government creden-

tials to an accused drug trafficker, Walid Makled, who is currently on trial in Venezuela.

The ousted judge traveled to Costa Rica this week as a tourist and on Tuesday flew to Miami accompanied by DEA officials.

In a television interview with Miami-based SoiTV that aired Wednesday, Aponte admitted to having manipulated cases and having favored government officials as a judge on "orders from the presidency on down."

"In the judiciary, there is no such thing as autonomy. It is a fallacy," he said.

Aponte asserted that high-ranking members of the Chavez government had links with drug traffickers and leftist guerrilla groups, mentioning by name Defense Minister Henry Rangel Silva.

Before his extradition from Colombia in March 2010, Makled made similar claims in a prison interview in which he said he had videos and other evidence implicating the Chavez government in drug trafficking.

The United States also had sought Makled's extradition for cocaine trafficking, but Colombia opted to send him back to Venezuela, where he is the scion of a wealthy Venezuelan family of Syrian heritage.

Makled, 43, went on trial April 10 in Caracas in a closed proceeding.

### Peru investigates deaths of almost 900 dolphins



LIMA (AFP) - Officials in Peru said Thursday they are investigating what caused the deaths of nearly 900 dolphins that have washed up on its northern coast over the past four months.

Authorities said they suspect a virus may be responsible, but are awaiting test results to know whether they can rule out environmental pollution or other factors in the deaths of the marine mammals.

"So far that's the most likely hypothesis," Deputy Environment Minister Gabriel Quijandria told local radio.

Ninety-five percent of the

deaths affected bottlenosed dolphins, which since January have washed up along a 170-kilometer (100-mile) stretch of coastline.

"It's not the first time this has happened. There have been other instances in Peru, Mexico and the United States," Quijandria added.

In those cases, he said, the deaths were attributed to outbreaks of highly infectious morbillivirus, related to ailments such as rinderpest, measles and distemper, an easily transmittable disease affecting dogs.

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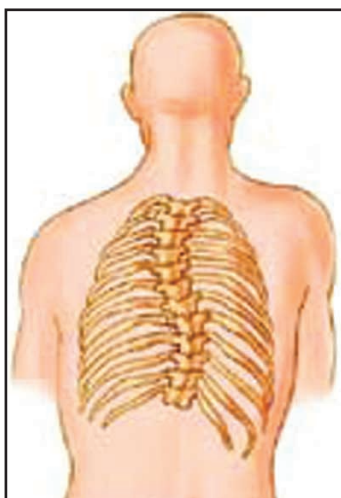
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## Health & Living

### Magnetic rod reduces need for surgery to straighten spine



PARIS (AFP) - A new magnetic back-straightening rod holds promise for treating children born with curved spines without the need for

six-monthly surgery, researchers in Hong Kong said.

At present, straightening rods fixed to the spine have to be lengthened on an operating table under general anaesthesia every six months to keep pace with the child's growth.

The researchers replaced these with a new type of magnetically-adjustable rod in five children aged five to 14 being treated for scoliosis, a curvature of the spine, at the Duchess of Kent Children's Hospital in Hong Kong.

During monthly clinic visits over two years, the rods were manipulated with an external, hand-held magnetic device placed over the implanted, internal magnet, said the study published in The Lancet med-

ical journal.

A rotating mechanism within the rod caused it to extend and thus lengthen the spine.

About three percent of all people suffer from scoliosis, and some 0.1 percent require straightening treatment, said Cheung.

Traditionally, doctors used screws and rods to straighten the spine of scoliosis patients and keep it in place, but in small children this hampered their growth.

The extendable rod has been in use for about five to 10 years, said Cheung.

A large-scale trial is being planned to see whether the prototype treatment is safe and effective.

### Study shows possible breakthrough for cerebral palsy

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A new treatment helped rabbits born with cerebral palsy regain near-normal mobility, offering hope of a potential breakthrough in treating humans with the incurable disorder, researchers said.

The method, part of the growing field of nanomedicine, worked by delivering an anti-inflammatory drug directly into the damaged parts of the brain via tiny tree-like molecules known as dendrimers.

Baby rabbits treated within six hours of birth showed "dramatic improvement in the motor function" by the fifth day of life, said lead author Sujatha Kannan of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Perinatology Research Branch.

The study appears in the US

journal Science Translational Medicine.

Rabbits who were born immobile due to cerebral palsy were moving around at "almost... normal healthy levels by day five," said an accompanying article in the same journal by Chicago pediatrician Sidhartha Tan.

The drug used was one that is commonly used to treat people who overdose on acetaminophen, known as N-acetyl-L-cysteine or NAC, and was given at a 10 times smaller amount.

However, it was successful because the nanodelivery method allowed it to cross the blood-brain barrier and swiftly shut down inflammation in the brain.

Kannan said her team used rabbits because, like humans, their brains develop some before birth and some after birth,

whereas most other animals are born with their motor abilities already formed.

While experts say it may be many years before it will be known if this approach can be used in human babies, the research shows an important proof of concept that some type of early intervention can reverse brain damage.

The disorder can cause severe difficulties controlling muscles, and inability to walk, move or swallow. Some patients may also suffer cognitive delays and developmental abnormalities.

One of the leading causes of cerebral palsy is premature birth, a phenomenon that is on the rise, but often the condition is not diagnosed until age two.

"By the time we make the diagnosis there is very little we can do," said Romero, describing cerebral palsy as "a life-long condition with no cure."

### Pakistan doctors save life of baby with six legs

KARACHI (AFP) - Doctors in Pakistan say they have successfully operated to save the life of a baby born with six legs due to a rare genetic condition, hospital officials said Thursday.

"A team of five experienced doctors have successfully separated the extra legs and limbs from the baby today. He is very much safe and secure," said Jamal Raza, the director of National Institute of the Child Health in Karachi.

Raza said it was a case of parasitic conjunction -- more than one baby joined together but only one of them fully formed.

The boy was born to the wife of an X-ray technician a couple of weeks ago in Sukkur city, around 450 kilometres (280 miles) north of Karachi, and was moved to Karachi for treatment early this week.

"The extra limbs and legs were the result of a genetic disease which would affect only one in a million or more babies," the doctor said.

Imran Shaikh, the baby's father, was thrilled.

"It is great news for us. What the parents want is to see their kids healthy and strong. We pray his life remains normal and joyful," he told reporters.

### Haiti president leaves US hospital after treatment

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Haitian President Michel Martelly has left a US hospital where he was treated for a pulmonary embolism, officials said Thursday.

"Upon the request of the doctors and following the significant progress in his recovery, Michel Martelly was able to leave Wednesday night the hospital center where he was under observation since Monday" in Miami, an official statement said.

The president, who did not discuss his ailment, said in a recorded message that he felt better, and thanked the government and the Haitian people for their support.

He insisted that the government remained in control in Haiti, which is still grappling with the aftermath of a massive 2010 earthquake that devastated Port-Au-Prince and killed over 200,000 people.

"During my hospital stay, I kept in contact with the authorities. Everything is under

control and I will return soon," Martelly said, without providing further details of his return date.

A pulmonary embolism is an obstruction of a blood vessel in the lungs, usually due to a blood clot blocking a coronary artery. It is a fairly common condition but can prove fatal if not diagnosed quickly and treated.

Martelly, a 51-year-old former singer known as "Sweet Micky" who took office last year, rushed back to the United States late Monday, accompanied by wife Sofia, days after surgeons operated on his right shoulder. He was also operated on his left shoulder in October in the United States.

Haitian officials initially said only that his rapid return to the United States was "due to postoperative complications," but revealed on Tuesday that he had been diagnosed with the potentially life-threatening condition.



## Sci-Tech

# Science lacking on whether death penalty deters murder

(AFP) Scientific research to date provides no useful conclusion on whether the death penalty reduces or boosts the murder rate, said a report by the US National Academy of Sciences on Wednesday.

A committee of scientists reviewed research done over the past 35 years and found it was "not informative about whether capital punishment decreases, increases, or has no effect on homicide rates," said the report.

The report was issued by the NAS's National Research Council, which convened a Committee on Deterrence and the Death Penalty to look at available evidence on how the death penalty may affect murder rates.

A previous report by the NRC in 1978 found that

"available studies provide no useful evidence on the deterrent effect of capital punishment."

In the decades since that report, "a considerable number" of studies have attempted to judge how well it works, or does not, and have reached "widely varying conclusions," the latest report said.

Until now, a key flaw in the research has been the failure to account for how punishments such as life in prison without the possibility of parole may affect homicide rates.

Also, a number of assumptions have hobbled previous studies, particularly by assuming that potential murderers actually consider the risk of execution and respond accordingly.

Instead, researchers going

forward must perform more rigorous studies that assess how potential criminals view the death penalty and its likely effect on their actions, the report said.

Better methods for future research include collecting data that consider both capital and non-capital punishments for murder and doing studies on how potential murderers perceive a range of punishments in homicide cases, it said.

Just 15 percent of people who have received the death sentence since 1976 have been executed, "and a large fraction of death sentences are reversed," added the report.

The members did not examine the moral arguments for or against capital punishment, or the costs involved.

# EU approves Sony, EMI music publishing deal

(AFP) - European competition regulators Thursday approved a \$2.2 billion takeover by Japan's Sony and Emirates investors of EMI Music Publishing which holds the rights to global pop stars such as Rihanna.

The European Commission said the approval was conditional on Sony and its partners in the Mubadala investment fund selling off the music publishing rights to other artists including Ozzy Osbourne, the European Commission said.

"Sony and Mubadala have offered to divest valu-

able and attractive catalogues," said European Union competition commissioner Joaquin Almunia, with the deal also covering Virgin's rights on 12 artists, including Robbie Williams.

Sony, in partnership with Michael Jackson's estate, already owns hundreds of thousands of song titles, including the publishing rights to the Beatles and Bob Dylan, but will now add the Motown output of the 1960s onwards as well as contemporary artists such as Jay-Z, P!nk, Adele or Norah Jones.

"In light of these commit-

ments, the Commission concluded that the transaction would not raise competition concerns," the EU said in its statement.

The Commission said its main concern had been over the control of the online licensing of Anglo-American chart hits with the internet now the key delivery platform for the music industry to reach consumers.

Media reports in the States say Sony plans to eliminate more than 300 jobs at EMI Publishing.

A deal was struck last year to split EMI's record labels and its music publishing business.

Publishing sees royalties paid to artists when their work is played, recorded or sold.

Vivendi subsidiary Universal Music Group agreed to pay US bank Citigroup \$1.9 billion for that catalogue, which notably contains the Beatles' recordings.

Last month, the EU Commission opened an in-depth competition investigation into that sale.

Home to a galaxy of stars including Coldplay and US pop starlet Katy Perry, EMI was seized by its main creditor Citigroup in February 2011 from private equity owner Terra Firma.



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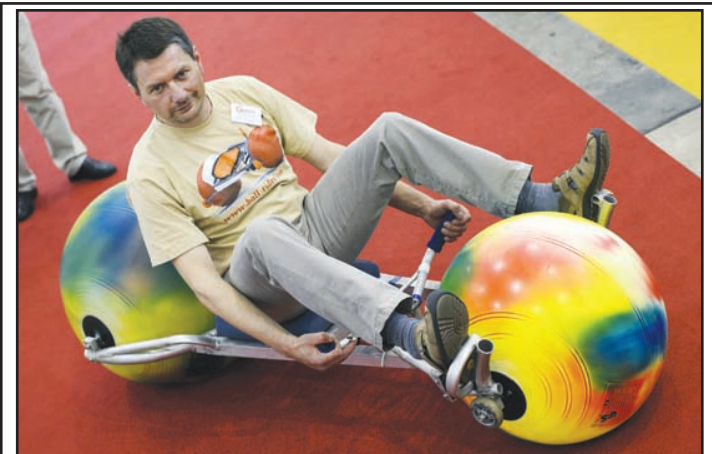
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STOCKHOLM- Sweden-LED TV and sound system integrated in the furniture are part of a mock-up for Swedish home furniture firm IKEA's venture into home electronics, shown to the press in Stockholm on April 16, 2012. The new furniture range, named UPPLEVA, the Swedish word for experience, integrates a LED TV, a sound system with wireless bass speakers, an internet connection and CD, DVD and Blu-ray players are set to hit the market in June.

AFP PHOTO



GENEVA, Switzerland - Germany's Ulli Boehme poses with his invention, the "Ball Rider" a new sport and leisure vehicle equipped with large balls as wheels, during the opening day of the 40th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, on April 18, 2012. More than 789 exhibitors from 46 countries are present at one of the world's largest exhibition of the devoted to innovation from April 18th to 22th in Geneva.

AFP PHOTO



DULLES, VA: A military band plays as the Space Shuttle Discovery (R), and the Space Shuttle Enterprise (L), sit nose to nose, during an event at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center April 19, 2012 in Chantilly, Virginia. The space shuttle Discovery is the he oldest and most traveled vehicle from NASA's space shuttle program, and will replace the Interprise at the museum.

AFP/Photo

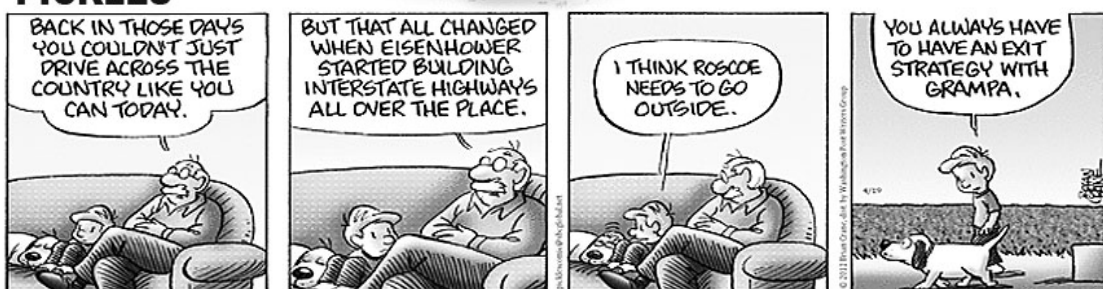


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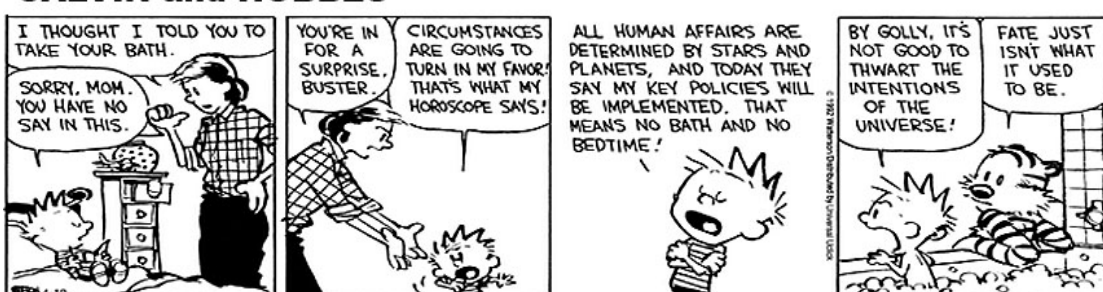
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## ACROSS

1. Type of pear
5. Eve's partner
9. Derby, e.g.
12. Negative response (hyph.)
13. Quick letter
14. "This \_\_\_ recording" (2 wds.)
15. Actress Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
16. Western Union dispatch
18. Cad
20. Doesn't give away
21. Asner and Bradley
22. Adult males
23. Poke fun
26. Thorough-

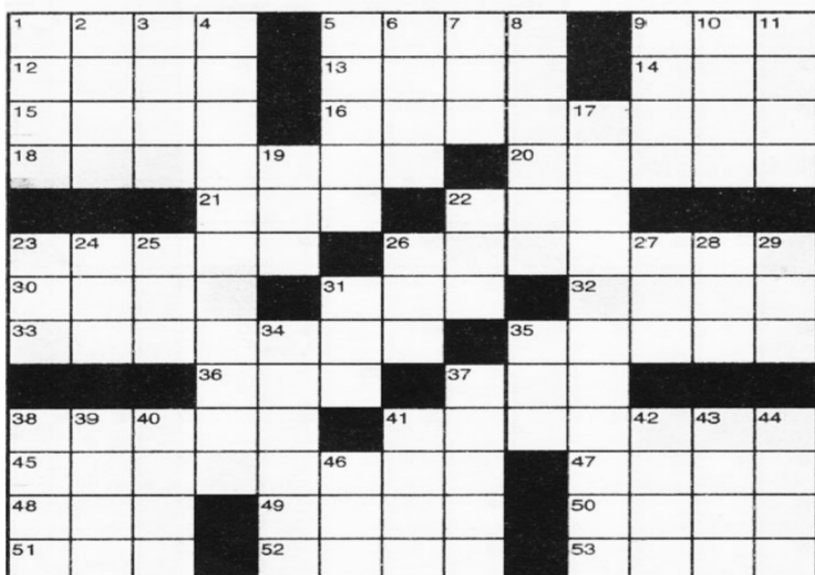
30. Actress Campbell
31. "Tell \_\_\_ story" (2 wds.)
32. Superman, e.g.
33. It can cause a jam
35. Broad valleys
36. Edible grain
37. Pen-making name
38. Certain pear
41. Thursday, e.g.
45. Recklessly
47. Cindy Crawford feature
48. Hockey great Bobby

49. Band instrument
50. Precinct
51. Cloth measurements (abbr.)
52. Bandleader Kenton
53. "\_\_\_ Bridges" (TV show)

## DOWN

1. Thermometer end
2. Sandusky's state
3. Navigator on "Star Trek"
4. Egg rolls, fried rice, etc. (2 wds.)
5. Pays to play

6. Performer
7. NJ's ocean
8. Less bold
9. Rent
10. Boss's impatient abbr.
11. They cover Highland heads
17. "The French Connection" Oscar winner (2 wds.)
19. HST follower
22. NYC transit org.
23. Blasting substance (abbr.)
24. Poetic "ever"
25. Gardner of "The Killers"
26. 1/60 of a min.
27. Elongated fish
28. Three, to Luigi
29. Help call
31. Major engineering school (abbr.)
34. Blames
35. Willis's "\_\_\_ Hard"
37. Commenced
38. Sailor's call
39. Misfit
40. Glass containers
41. Sheryl Swoopes's league (abbr.)
42. Explorer of TV
43. Pub potables
44. Okey-doke
46. Three strikes



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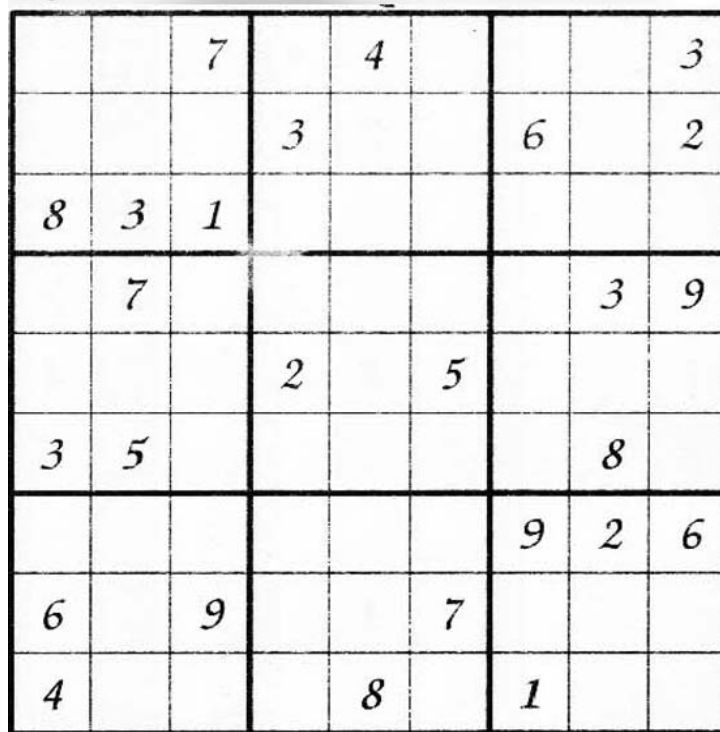
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## Sudoku



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8	7	6	2	5	4	1	9	3
9	2	6	3	1	7	5	8	4
7	8	2	1	6	4	9	5	3
1	9	4	5	3	2	8	7	6
6	5	3	9	8	7	2	1	4
4	6	7	2	5	9	1	3	8
2	1	9	8	7	4	6	5	3
3	5	8	6	7	1	9	2	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



## Finance

# Lagarde assures IMF able to boost crisis funds

WASHINGTON (AFP) - IMF head Christine Lagarde said yesterday that it would be able to boost its crisis intervention capacity this week as worries mounted that Spain might be the next eurozone country to seek a rescue.

Warning that "dark clouds" still hover over the global economy, she expressed confidence that International Monetary Fund members meeting this week in Washington would put up the funds needed for a "global firewall" -- despite the United States not taking part.

"As part of the outcome of this meeting, we expect our firepower to be significantly increased," she said, hours after Poland and Switzerland declared their contributions to the \$400 billion pool targeted to forestall any financial contagion from Europe.

"You've got lots of clouds out there," she told journalists ahead of the annual IMF-World Bank spring meetings. The eurozone remains "the epicenter of potential risks" she added.

Worries that Spain might be the next country to seek an EU-IMF bailout, sparking new turmoil across the fragile eurozone, have filled markets over the past week.

Yesterday Madrid scraped through a key bond market test but failed to quash doubts over its future finances.

Overall, the Spanish Treasury raised 2.5 billion euros (\$3.3 billion), above its goal, at a high borrowing rate for 10-year notes but still below the psychologically important 6.0 percent level.

Investors had been nervously waiting for the government bond auction, fearing a flop could unleash new attacks on Spain's sovereign debt and reignite the flames of the eurozone debt crisis.

"Spain has replaced Greece in the international and especially the Anglo-Saxon press as the country that has the most problems. The problems are clearly enormous but reforms are being made," said Daniel Pingarron, analyst at Spanish brokerage IG Markets.

Even so, he admitted, "These tensions are not going to calm in the short term or even the medium term," he added.

As of early yesterday, the IMF was more than three-quarters of the way toward meeting its \$400 billion goal for boosting its intervention "firepower".

The European Union has pledged \$200 billion, Japan \$60 billion, and Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Poland and Switzerland and some smaller contributors another \$60 billion.

But the BRICS economies seeking greater say in the

running of the IMF -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa -- have yet to declare how much they will contribute.

"China will be at the meeting, that's certain," said a European source referring to the world's second largest economy.

"But will it give a figure this week, or wait until Mexico?" when Group of 20 leaders meet in June.

With Washington saying it would not contribute, the IMF had already rolled back its target of \$500 billion, and some economists worry the IMF and European crisis funds might not be enough if markets turn sour on Spain and Italy.

Lagarde also urged members to beef up the IMF's fund for helping out the world's poorest countries, on top of the crisis firewall.

"It's equally important that we have the adequate resources to help the low-income countries if they need it. I very much hope that the entire membership will respond and seize the moment," she said.

## Spain doesn't need bailout, says IMF

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Spain does not need a rescue loan from the International Monetary Fund, IMF chief Christine Lagarde said yesterday as worries over the country's finances continued to spook investors.

"There is no such need at the moment as I understand," she told Bloomberg Television.

She said Madrid was taking "really serious measures" on reforming the country's labor market and reducing its fiscal shortfalls.

"They are determined to take control of the provinces' budgets, which was an issue, and they have announced that they want to strengthen the Spanish bank capital."

She also said that the \$1 trillion emergency "firewall" fund Europe is putting together is also a crucial tool to help prevent market contagion from undermining Spain and the eurozone.

"I hope that through the combined efforts that the Europeans will be able to support the efforts undertaken by the Spanish government."

The IMF has already joined the European Union in massive bailouts of Greece, Portugal and Ireland, all much smaller economies than Spain's.

If there is a need for a rescue program, she said, "the IMF has to be there for all members -- if there is appropriate burden sharing and proper risk mitigation."



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## G20 ministers seek to boost trade at Mexico meeting

PUERTO VALLARTA (AFP) - Trade ministers from the Group of 20 leading and emerging economies met with business leaders on Mexico's Pacific coast yesterday to discuss measures to increase international commerce.

"Global Trade and investment were, over the past decade, critical to contributing to prosperity and peace," said Martin Senn, president of the Zurich Financial Services Group, at the start of the two-day meeting.

Business leaders from the so-called B20 group called on the G20 ministers to make investment in trade a permanent part of their agenda, to avoid measures harming trade and to strengthen the role of the

World Trade Organization (WTO), as economies worldwide deal with the impact of Europe's debt crisis.

Nineteen trade and economy ministers, including from China, Turkey, Australia and South Korea, were taking part in the gathering of G20 nations and five invited countries in the resort city of Puerto Vallarta.

They were joined by the heads of the WTO and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Pascal Lamy and Jose Angel Gurría respectively.

The Mexico meeting comes ahead of a G20 summit in the Pacific resort of Los Cabos, northwest Mexico, in June.



INDIA, Amritsar : AFP photo shows Indian farmers harvesting wheat in a field at Ram Tirth village, some 12 kms from Amritsar. India's wheat production, one of the world's largest, is expected to cross some 86 million tons to set a new record for the 2011-12 crop year.



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Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.78	1.80	1.82
Britain	GBP	2.79	2.84	2.90
Switzerland	CHF	193.74	194.46	195.26
Netherlands	EUR	230.96	233.07	235.41
Sweden	SEK	25.37	26.09	26.89
Denmark	DKK	30.37	31.09	31.89
Norway	NOK	29.91	30.63	31.43
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CAT	BLEACHERS	
KNEEL	SILLO	
REM	NORWAY	
GERMAN	DEICE	
AOL	DUG	RIN
RAKES	MOBBED	
FLEXES	DYE	
CANE	PANIC	
CAFETERIA	COO	
IDES	ELMS	INS
ADMS	REPS	SET



## Beer barrels nicked from British parliament

LONDON (AFP) - Four barrels of beer, a bottle of champagne and a bicycle repair kit have been reported stolen from Britain's parliament in recent months, official records showed.

A flower arrangement, two iPads, a passport and a printer were also among 36 reported thefts from June up to March 22, according to the House of Commons Commission.

Ten laptop computers, cash, a watch, a medal, two mobile phones, a souvenir, two bags and a trolley with a consignment of books were also on the list.

The Palace of Westminster in central London is surrounded by tight security, with armed police guarding its entrances and patrolling the parliamentary estate.

But the list showed up some light-fingered work going on inside the iconic building.

The thieves' haul was re-

vealed following a question by lawmaker Keith Vaz, who chairs the lower House of Commons' Home Affairs Select Committee scrutiny body.

Vaz had a laptop and iPad stolen from his Westminster office last year.

"I was shocked and very disappointed to hear that, despite being one of the most secure buildings in Britain, in the first three months of 2012 we have already reached 50 percent of the thefts of last year," he said.

"It seems clear that people are operating within the House of Commons and I hope the authorities will apprehend these individuals quickly."

The written answer to his question was published Tuesday in Hansard, the official record of parliamentary business.

Last month there was a suspected break-in at opposition leader Ed Miliband's parliamentary offices.



**London :** A handout picture obtained from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) shows 260 Guardsmen from the Grenadier, Coldstream, Scots and Welsh Guards forming a giant "100" at Horse Guards Parade in London to mark 100 days to go until the 2012 London Olympic Games. London marked on April 18, 100 days to go until Queen Elizabeth II declares the 2012 London Olympics open, making the British capital the first city in the modern era to host the Games three times (below) Giant Olympic rings made up of over 20,000 flowers are unveiled at Kew Gardens in London. **AFP/Photo**

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## Vatican condemns American nuns for liberal stances

VATICAN CITY (AFP) - The Vatican has issued a scathing condemnation of the main association of Catholic nuns in the United States for taking liberal stances on contraception, homosexuality and female priests.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) said in a statement on Thursday it was "stunned" by the Vatican report which pointed to "serious doctrinal problems" and "unacceptable positions" on a range of issues.

It accused members of LCWR, which represents around 45,000 US nuns, or 80 percent of the total, of "corporate dissent" with the Church's teachings against homosexuality and said it was pursuing "radical feminist themes".

The Roman Catholic Church's main enforcer, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said it had therefore decided to appoint the Archbishop of Seattle, Peter

Sartain, to oversee the association and ensure it toes the line.

Sartain will provide "review, guidance and approval, where necessary of the work of the LCWR" and reform its statutes in agreement with the Vatican.

His task will be "to ensure that the scope of the LCWR's mission is fulfilled in accordance with Church teachings and discipline", it said.

Sartain has been in the headlines in recent months for his campaign in support of the US state of Washington's referendum against same-sex marriage.

LCWR said it was "taken by surprise" as its leadership was in Rome for a regular annual meeting and had received no forewarning about the report.

The Vatican report in particular condemned LCWR for being "silent on the right to life from conception to natural death, a question that is part of the lively public debate about

abortion and euthanasia in the United States".

LCWR has come under criticism from the Catholic hierarchy for endorsing US President Barack Obama's healthcare reform, including its provisions on abortion and contraception, in the run-up to the US election in November.

The report also said that the LCWR, which was founded in 1956, had taken a position in 1977 against the ordination of priests as a male prerogative and that subsequent speeches on the issue were "a matter of serious concern".

Pope Benedict XVI, who headed up the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith for more than two decades becoming pope, has made overtures to ultra-conservative religious movements such as the Society of Saint Pius X, which this week said it was on its way to re-integrating with the Vatican after breaking away in the 1980s.



## Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up

and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples.



Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV,



high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange

rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: [www.goldcoastaruba.com](http://www.goldcoastaruba.com) to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

## Adorable and affordable; 5 Burgers Aruba offers an island twist to the great American Burger

Expatriates from Boston, Massachusetts, residing on Aruba, Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. Some may be quite well acquainted with a nationally known U.S franchise bearing the name "5", and patrons can expect the same great quality between the buns, but an expanded menu and Rosie and Aaron's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu.



Rosie and Aaron love their Burger too



Gouda Burger 2

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," comments Aaron; and upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy, made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

Prices vary only slightly between regular and small (basically 2 patties or 1) with specialty items such as Gouda Burger, Farmer's Burger, Man Burger (almost 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with crispy onion rings and BBQ sauce. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jalapeño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato... whatever the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries, which are made from hand-cut fresh

Idaho potatoes, is enough to be shared by two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!" Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

If you are a fan of crispy friend onion rings, as we are at THE MORNING NEWS, you cannot leave there without trying their secret recipe batter-dipped gourmet rings, made from fresh, not frozen onions. Unquestionably, the best we have had anywhere, and for those that like a little spice, the fried jalapeños are a real treat. Aaron and Rosie have expanded their menu to accommodate certain tastes and dietary needs; they offer a tasty grilled chicken sandwich as well.

5 Burgers Aruba is open for lunch & dinner - daily hours are Noon to 10-ish; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for the owners when things are not too busy, to sit and chat while sharing their knowledge of the island. Totally yummy and fun plus a great deal for a quality burger, they are definitely worth a visit







# Cincinnati 6, St. Louis 3



ST. LOUIS - Matt Holliday #7 of the St. Louis Cardinals hits a three-run home run against the Cincinnati Reds at Busch Stadium on April 19, 2012 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Reds defeated the Cardinals 6-3. AFP Photo

## NBA: Celtics clinch division, Bulls, Heat win

BOSTON (AFP) - Paul Pierce's 29 points included a key jump shot with 7.6 seconds remaining on Wednesday as Boston beat Orlando 102-98 to clinch the NBA Atlantic Division title.

Pierce, who also handed out a career-high 14 assists, helped

the Celtics overcome the absence of Rajon Rondo, who was still nursing a sore back after a spill in the defeat at New York on Tuesday.

Boston turned back a late surge by the playoff-bound Magic, who trailed by as many as 13 in the fourth quarter but whittled the deficit to one before the Celtics secured the win.

Orlando were without star Dwight Howard, who has a herniated disk in his back.

In his absence, former Celtic Glen Davis led the Magic with 23 points.

Eastern Conference leaders Chicago and their closest pursuers, Miami, both won Wednesday, warming up for their clash on Thursday.

The Bulls edged closer to clinching the top seed in the East with a 100-68 romp past lowly Charlotte.

The Bulls were without Most Valuable Player Derrick Rose, still feeling a sore right foot, and Luol Deng, who has bruised ribs.

Even so, Chicago led by as many as 24 points, shooting 52 percent while holding the Bobcats to 34 percent shooting.

Miami, who played without Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh, relied on LeBron James in a 96-72 victory over Toronto.

James made 10 of his first 11 shots, finishing with 28 points and resting all of the fourth quarter as the Heat had the game in hand.

On Thursday Miami tackle the Bulls in a contest that will be crucial to the Heat's hopes

of dislodging Chicago from the top spot in the East.

In the West, the Memphis Grizzlies clinched a playoff berth with a 103-91 victory over New Orleans.

Rudy Gay scored 26 points and Mike Conley added 20 for the Grizzlies, who also had Zach Randolph and O.J. Mayo combine for 25 points off the bench.

### More medical tests for FIFA's ailing ex-president

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Doctors in Brazil will perform a new round of tests on FIFA's ailing former president Joao Havelange, 95, who has been hospitalized for the past month after suffering a serious infection.

The former FIFA head remains in serious condition and requires medication to control his blood pressure and improve heart functions.

Havelange, who was the president of FIFA from 1974 to 1998 is credited with turning football into the money-making industry it is today. But he resigned as a member of the International Olympic Committee in December after 48 years just days before an ethics hearing into allegations of corruption.

Havelange also was instrumental in bringing the 2016 Olympics to Rio de Janeiro and to South America for the first time when the IOC elected the city as the host in 2009 in Copenhagen.



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WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama holds up a jersey and helmet given to him by members of the University of Alabama Crimson Tide football team during an event on the South Lawn of the White House April 19, 2012 in Washington, DC. President Obama was joined by members of the University of Alabama Crimson Tide football team to celebrate their 2012 Allstate BCS National Championship win.

AFP PHOTO

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## Violence mars Bahrain Grand Prix on eve of practice runs



**Bahraini Shiite Muslim democracy activists take part in a demonstration calling for the cancellation of the upcoming Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix race in Isa town near the capital Manam**  
AFP PHOTO

DUBAI (AFP) - Violence marred Bahrain's controversial Grand Prix race as a fire bomb exploded near Force India team members and protesters clashed with police in the lead-up to the Formula One practice runs set to begin on Friday.

Security has been beefed up ahead of Sunday's race, but the incident prompted F1 officials to reassure participants that, despite the violence, Bahrain was safe.

Speaking to reporters at the Sakhir circuit, chairman of the Formula One Grand Prix

Drivers Association, Pedro de la Rosa, said safety is "not a concern."

He added that he had full faith in the decision by the International Motoring Federation to hold the event despite mounting tensions in the kingdom.

Four members of the Force India team were stuck in traffic when a fire bomb exploded as they returned from the Sakhir circuit to their hotel late on Wednesday, Bahrain International Circuit chairman Zayed Alzayani told Autosport magazine.

The four mechanics apparently got caught up in a clash between protesters and police on the motorway from the capital Manama to Sakhir.

Nobody was injured.

A spokesman for the Force India team confirmed the incident and said one team member, not involved in the incident, and a contractor hired by the team, had chosen

to return home as a result of the blast.

Alzayani played down the incident and said he would not request any tighter security as a result.

Force India driver German Nico Hulkenberg said it was "not right" that members of his team had been close to an exploding fire bomb, but added that he still felt safe.

Mohammad Mascati, head

of the Bahrain Youth Society for Human Rights, told AFP that security forces fired tear gas and sound bombs to disperse dozens who protested in Manama on Thursday, adding that police set up checkpoints at the entrances to the capital.

In other developments, Bahrain has denied visas to foreign journalists and photographers, including from AFP, to cover the race.

*continues on page 14*

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